

REMARKS

Claims 21 and 22 have been newly added. Claims 1-22 are pending in the application. The statement that claims 15, 16, 19, and 20 are allowed is gratefully acknowledged. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the original claims and other claims in this and other applications.

Claims 1, 12-14, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,656,083 (“Schonberger”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,283,023 (“Christmann”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, recites “comprising a casing; a doctor assembly including a doctor fitted to a doctor carrier; and an inking chamber for containing ink to be applied to a print cylinder, the inking chamber being formed by a concave inner surface of the casing and at least partly by the doctor assembly; the casing and the doctor assembly forming a box body closed except for one side engaging in use the print cylinder....” The Schonberger and Christmann combination does not disclose at least these features.

Schonberger discloses an “ink chamber 3 defined by a chamber doctor body 4, a working doctor blade 5, a strip 6 and side walls 7.” (Schonberger, column 2, lines 19-21). However, the ink chamber 3 of Schonberger does not form “a box body closed except for one side engaging in use the print cylinder” as recited by claim 1. To the contrary, Schonberger teaches that “[t]he strip 6 is positioned at a distance from the cylinder 1 providing a gap 30 therebetween.” (Schonberger, column 2, lines 25-26). As further evidence that the ink chamber 3 is not closed except for one side engaging in use a print cylinder, Schonberger states that “[a]ny ink which escapes the ink chamber 3 will be collected by an ink fountain (not shown), this includes ink escaping through the gap 30 between the strip 6 and the cylinder 1.” (Schonberger, column 2, lines 60-63).

Christmann does not cure the deficiencies of Schonberger. The present Office Action states that it would be obvious to modify the apparatus of Schonberger to have the doctor blade orientation and sliding adjustment as taught by Christmann. (Office Action, page 3). Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the doctor blade of Christmann could be combined with the apparatus of

Schonberger, doing so would not close the gap 30 in the ink chamber 3 of Schonberger because the doctor blade of Schonberger 5 is located on the opposite side of the ink chamber 3 from the gap 30. (Schonberger, FIG. 1)

Since the Schonberger and Christmann combination does not disclose all the limitations of claim 1, claim 1 is not anticipated by the cited combination. Claims 12-14 and 17-18 depend from claim 1 and are patentable at least for the reasons mentioned above. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and each of pending claims be allowed.

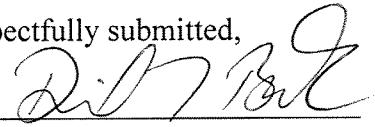
Claims 2-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Schonberger in view of Christmann and U.S. Patent No. 4,945,832 (“Odom”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 2-11 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over the Schonberger and Christmann combination for at least the reasons mentioned above. Odom, which has been cited as teaching sealing means that are radial shaped to engage the lateral surface of the print cylinder, does not disclose these limitations, and therefore does not cure the deficiencies of Christmann discussed above. See, e.g., Figure 1 of Odom. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Furthermore, new dependent claims 21 and 22 have been added. Claim 21 recites that “the slide and the support are connected to each other by actuating members which comprise at least two screws fitted in an axially-fixed manner to the support, and the free ends of which are inserted inside respective threaded seats formed in the slide.” Claim 22 recites that “the slide has a sealing surface adjacent to a sealing edge of the casing and extending continuously along the whole width of and between the opposite ends of the doctor assembly; and wherein the unit further comprises a sealing means being fitted between the casing and the slide.” None of the cited prior art, alone or in combination, teaches these limitations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that new claims 21 and 22 be allowed.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests such allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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